DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 111 431 IR 002 530

AUTHOR Marshall, Ruben
TITLE The Concept of Death in Children's Literature.
PUB DATE 12 Apr 75
NOTE 26p.; Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Association of School Librarians (Springfield, Illinois, April 10-12, 1975)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.95 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Annotated Bibliographies; *Childrens Books; *Death; Elementary Education; Films; Filmstrips; Library Collections; Literary Analysis; Phonograph Records; Phonotape Recordings; Secondary Education; Video Tape Recordings

ABSTRACT

A bibliography on the concept of death in children's literature in the last 15 years provides evaluative annotations for one film and 65 print items (both fiction and nonfiction) in four categories: adult, grades K-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7 and up. Additional items, which are not annotated, are listed in a comprehensive bibliography which includes books for adults, children's books, stories in collections, films, filmstrips, videotapes, cassette tapes, and records. (SL)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED111431

THE CONCEPT OF DEATH IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Prepared for the Annual Meeting
of the Illinois Association of School Librarians

April 10-12, 1975

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

by Ruben Marshall
Assistant Professor of Information Sciences
Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Ruben Marshall
TO ERIC AND ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION. FURTHER REPRODUCTION OUTSIDE THE ERIC SYSTEM REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER.

c1975. Ruben Marshall.

IR 002 530

OUTLINE

I. Adult Materials

II. Grades K-3

III. Grades 4-6

IV. Grades 7 and up

V. Comprehensive Bibliography

A. Books for Adults

B. Books

C. Stories in Collections

D. 16mm Films

E. Sound Filmstrips

F. Videotapes

G. Cassette Tape Recordings

H. Records

Adult

American Friends Service Committee. Who Shall Live? Man's Control over Birth and Death. 1970. Hill and Wang. $1.75. 144 p.

A thought provoking report especially useful in terms of dealing with the concept of death and the quality of life.

Becker, Ernest. The Denial of Death. New York: MacMillian, (c1973), $7.95, 314 p.

This work could be used as a modern explanation, interpretation of several psychoanalytic theories including those of Kierkegaard, Rank and Freud. The author has maintained the difficult standard of comprehensiveness: "I have written this book fundamentally as a study in harmonization of the Babel of views on man and on the human condition, in the belief that the time is ripe for a systhesis that covers the best thought in many fields, from the human sciences to religion. I have tried to avoid moving against and negating any point of view, no matter how personally antipathetic to me, if it seems to have in it a core of truthfulness. I have had a growing realization over the past few years that the problems of man's knowledge is not to oppose and to demolish opposing views, but to include them in a larger theoretical structure." He suggests a synthesis of psychology and religion to heighten human sensitivity in our struggle against death. This work is relevant to the many of us who will never read those modern giants in their unvarnished originals. Becker's explanations are to the point and from the modern experience: Zorba the Greek, A Clockwork Orange, Charles Mansion, The Playboy Mystique. So, Professor Becker has purged his academic soul of pedantic universitydium. But Becker's book is both difficult and stimulating. There are many tedious, thought provoking passages, which, if overpondered, may deprive you of your desire to become enlightened: "Freud's overfondness of his own phylogenetic myths of the primal horde, perversion as a protest against the submergence of individuality by species standardization, etc., etc. However, The Denial of Death is of value for those who have a desire to delve into the psychoanalytic depths of human death.

Cook, Sarah. Children and Dying: an Exploration and Selective Bibliography. New York: Health Services, 1973.

Surveys the small amount of literature on children and dying as it relates to nursing. The Renshaw article which is included offers solid advice to nurses, physicians and parents on understanding and managing death. The bibliography on children's perceptions of death is sparse and dated. Not Recommended.

Cutler, Donald R. Updating Life and Death: Essays in Ethics and Medicine. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968, p. 286.

Editor Cutler has put together a group of well written documented essays by writers uniquely qualified to evaluate the development of medical ethics. Their backgrounds vary from Dorr Professor of Research in Anesthesia at Harvard, to Senior Minister of the Faith Presbyterian Church in Minnetounka, Minnesota, to a member of Britain's Royal College of Physicians. The six page index makes this a useful resource for subjects such as abortion, life-concept of, transplants. Some of these essays may haunt the ethical reaches of our mind: "...a refusal or failure to be a

donor of our body or tissue, in one way or another, amounts to choosing death for somebody else." "If transplant surgery is carried out, then the materials used must be the best possible. It is also for this reason that donors should be young...the longer the patient is comatose the longer his kidneys, heart, lungs and liver are likely to suffer from inadequate circulation and thus not be ideal material for the purpose. The tremendous dilemma therefore arises that those youngsters with brain damage are ideal donors only if the period of coma prior to removal of their organs is short..." Taken all together, these essays have a Shakesperian quality of introducing the reader to multiple levels of inquiry.

Fontenot, Christine. "Values in Literature: Alternative approaches; The Subject Nobody Teaches" in English Journal, Vol. 63, No. 2, Feb. 1974.

High school English Teacher describes units she prepared and taught on death. Contains some excellent suggestions both on reading material and music which can be incorporated.

Gordan, David Cole. Overcoming the Fear of Death. New York: MacMillan (c1970), 115 p.

This is a very simply written book, or more accurately extended essay, on the psychology of Death. The author mentions many of the psychological theories more fully and completely dealt with by Becker (The Denial of Death) though this is not a layman's Becker D. C. Gordan's book could be used as a modern critical view of Western people's over focus on literal time, money, social status, etc. The author builds these critical insights as he identifies the ways people: struggle to avoid death; fear decay; fear cessation of thought; and accumulate monuments. The underlying theory espoused is that all people desire unification of self, other and universe. Death, then, is the ultimate unification. One does not have to share this thesis with the author to appreciate his evaluation of Western proclivities. The historic relevance of Gordan's book is aptly suggested by Rabbi Jack Riemer's review in the Jesuit periodical, America: "This is the classic view of the ancient pagan religious and mystery cults. If man is really a part of nature, then the temporary separation which constitutes human life is not a goal but only a station and the ultimate end is to merge back into the formless whole from which we came.... It stands in clear contrast to the classic biblical view, which is that man is in some sense different from the rest of nature.... This book is an example of the new popularity of the views of the Eastern religions in the West. There are many who will respond to its message." (America February 6, 1971, p. 132)

Grollman, Earl, ed. Explaining Death to Children. Boston: Beacon Press, 1967, 266 p.

Collection of articles by scientists and clergyman. Emphasizes both the Christian and psychological dimensions of death. Encourages adults to permit children to recognize the reality of death and express their grief. Both practical thoughtful. Contains extensive chapter bibliographies. The editor also wrote a book, Talking about Death, a Dialogue Between Parent and Child, illustrated by Gisela Heau and printed by Beacon Press, 1970. The idea of a dialogue is excellent, but poorly carried out. This reviewer senses that such a dialogue is not what Grollman captured. Rather it is an adult concept of such a dialogue. For review of this book see unit K-3.

Jackson, Edgar N. Telling a Child about Death. New York: Hawthorne (c1965) 91 p.

Topics covered included the importance of telling a child about death, when how and what to say; understanding the child's grief. The author stresses the importance of including children in family's experience of death in order to reassure child that death is a natural part of life. The author makes some excellent points but his style is simplistic and he tends to over illustrate. Easy reading. Not rec.

Kelly, Orville E. "Make Today Count" A.D. Jan., 1975, 234 p.

Religious periodical article about a man living with the knowledge that he is dying of cancer. He determines to make every moment valuable and meaningful -- not only for himself and his family, but for those in similar situations.

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. On Death and Dying. New York: MacMillan, 1969, 260 p.

Describes the author's work with the terminally ill and suggests methods for hospital staff to serve the dying. Discusses the stages through which dying persons go while coming to terms with death. Analyzes resistance to confronting death and suggests means of lessening this resistance. Although directed to those in health profession, Dr. Kubler-Ross' Compassion for the dying individual and for those involved in his or her care, combines with her in-depth knowledge in the field to make this required reading for those who wish to develop a better understanding of the subject. In the future high school students will probably view this as a classic in its field. However, it is important to note two reservations about this work. Some authorities raise serious questions about the accuracy of her concept of specific stages through which people go through; Dr. Kubler-Ross is at times dogmatic rather than tentative in her assumptions and conclusions. These problems are complicated in that she has been somewhat idolized or at least sainted by many in the health professions so that critical rather than lauditory information about her books may be difficult to come by. These reservations are relevant to librarians who should seek a balanced collection by providing alternative or even antagonistic worldviews on death, as they become available. One solid and critical material which presents an alternative to the Kubler-Ross view is Edwin S. Shneidman's Death, the Enemy. However, as the annotation on it indicates, it is rather poorly carried out and somewhat dull.

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. Questions and Answers on Death and Dying. New York: MacMillan, 1974, 171 p.

Attempts to answer those questions most frequently asked by participants in death and dying seminars. Emphasis on patient related issues. Directed to those in health-care positions. Dr. Kubler has great understanding of the needs of the dying and those who care for them. Her answers are sincere and face the question of death squarely. Not recommended only because the issue of the child's attitude toward death is purposely not included.

Kutscher, Austin H., ed. Death and Bereavement. Springfield, IL, Thomas, 1969, 364 p. $8.00

Collection of 41 articles by physicians, ministers, psychiatrists, and other professional persons. Entries vary in quality. A good bibliography. Recommended for research.

Lepp, Ignace. Death and its Mysteries. New York: MacMillan, 1969, 194 p.

The author, a psychologist, psychotherapist, and Catholic priest, explores topics of physiological death, fear, suicide, the meaning of death, and the immortality of the soul. A psychological, documented, non-emotional religious approach. Will be of inspiration to those who view death as the freeing of the soul from the body.

Lifton, Robert J. Death in Life: Survivors of Hiroshima. New York: Random House, 1969, 576 p.

Exhaustive study of the impact of the bomb on the city and the survivors. Lifton explores survivors reactions--physical and emotional, and their attitudes toward those not affected. In interviews with 75 survivors, Lifton reported and analyzed a common frame of reference. The survivors have a sense of continuous encounter with death extending from the initial exposure to the present. The author suggests that we, i.e. society, create new psychic and social forms which will enable us to reclaim technology and imagination in the service of the continuity of life. Highly recommended for an in-depth psychicatric study of survivorship.

McKinney, Margot and Minton, Mildred. Death: A New Image. November, 1973, 21 p.

A selected bibliography of Green Mountain College holdings.

Moriarity, David M., comp. and ed. The Loss of Loved Ones: The Effects of a Death in the Family on Personality Development. Springfield, IL, Thomas, 1967, 203 p.

Moriarity's thesis is that the loss of a loved one, especially through death, is most important cause of major mental illness. Such illness may occur immediately or appear later in life. His thesis is substantiated by his case histories and dialogues between patients and physicians. Further testimony is supplied by contributors. Unfortunately, this book only verifies the problem and offers no solution other than psychiatric help after the mental illness has become manifest. Not rec.

Moss, Judith. "Death in Children's Literature," Elementary English. April, 1972, p. 530-32.

Reviews six books that show special sensitivity to the emotions of fear, shame, anger, and difficulty of adjustment following the loss of a loved person.

Myers, Jeanette. "Literature, Drama, and Children's Attitudes and Anxieties Concerning Death," ELAN. Vol 16, No. 1, Winter, 1973, p. 38-45.

Advocates allowing children to express their concepts and fears of death in play. Also encourages teachers to make available literature dealing with death. Contains wealth of suggested readings for children aged 5-12.

Osborne, Ernest. When you Lose a Loved One. Public Affairs Committee, 1958, 28 p.

Comprehensive overview of various adult reactions to death and mourning and their relationship to children's feelings. Simply and directly written, but contains nothing which is not covered in greater depth in more recent studies. Not rec.

Parker, A. Morgan. Suicide among Young Adults. New York: Exposition Press, 1974, 164

A study of young adults (17-25) who have attempted or committed suicide in the U.S. Armed Forces. Parker researches the significant factors in understanding and dealing with suicidal behavior. He focuses on the role of Christian ministry as a vital resource in suicide prevention. This study covers attitudes toward suicide in past, theories regarding the nature of suicide, occurance data, symptoms, and methods. The religious dimension receives special attention. Well organized, but does not directly deal with the concept of death. Not recommended.

Pearson, Leonard, ed. Death and Dying, current issues in the treatment of the dying person. Cleveland, Case Western Reserve, 1969, 235 p.

Topics covered include: psychological death--as opposed to physical death--, life and death forces within the individual, treatment of dying in England, effects of death on family, and awareness of death process. Written by clinicians and scientists. Well done, but written for the scholar and researcher, not receommended.

Powers, Thomas. "Learning to die: The Final Lesson that few Doctors Know how to Teach." Harpers Magazine, June, 1971, p. 72-80.

Excellent study of the current state of dying in an institution. Includes a chronicle of the last hospitalization of a "Mrs. B." and relates issues of death and dying to her case.

Savary, Louis M. and Carrico, J. Paul. Contemporary Film and the New Generation. Association Press. New York, 1971 (Youth World Series).

A brief, critical handbook on contemporary films, some of which deal with or touch on the concept of death. For example, there is an explication of Universal Pictures' Tell Them Willie Boy is Here (the hero who commits an act of violence and dies, perhaps nobly), as well as an evaluation of United Artists' Midnight Cowboy, and Columbia Picture Industries' Easy Rider.

Scott, Frances G. and Brewer, Ruth M. Confrontations of Death: A Book of Readings and Suggested Methods of Instruction. Corvallis, Oregon, Continuing Education (c1971), 184 p.

Selected readings designed to elicit discussion of feeling about death. Intent: provide a situation in which reader can confront his or her own death realistically and thus be better prepared to confront life and help others do same. This is an excellent collection of readings--especially for the reader who hasn't the time to assemble his own collection of materials. Especially helpful: "Some philosophies of Life and Death," "Theme of Death in Poetry and Literature," and "Some Considerations of Personal Health."

Shneidman, Edwin S. Death, the Enemy. Psychology Today, 1973, (cassette tape).

Academic tedious interview with E. S. Shneidman. Primarily of interest to researcher, adds little to background of teacher or librarian. Criticism of Kubler-Ross Report is of interest.

Wolf, Anna W.M. Helping Your Child Understand Death. Child Study, 1973, 96 p. $1.50.

Suggests ways of guiding children of various ages to understand and accept death. Very perceptive--a good buy at this price.

Zeligs, Rose. Children's Experience with Death. Springfield, IL C. C. Thomas, 1974, 22 p.

The child's concept of death grows with age. Thus, the five-year-old may think that life and death are reversible while a ten-year-old will be interested in the cause of death. Parental attitudes affect children's attitudes. Parents can help them by including children in all phases of life, including death. Very brief and commonsensical.

K-3

De Paola, Tomie, Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs. Putnam 1973.

Grades K-2. Four year old Tommy has a great-grandmother who is bedridden - Nana upstairs - and a grandmother who is active - Nana downstairs. He enjoys the companionship of both and particularly enjoys Nana upstairs' stories. When Nana upstairs dies Tommy learns that she will never come back and that Nana downstairs will eventually deteriorate and become a Nana upstairs. For children this could be a sobering comprehensible study of what it means to be young, old, very old and dead. Reference to a falling star as "perhaps that was a kiss from Nana Upstairs" is somewhat romantic.

Grollman, Earl A. Talking about Death: a dialogue between parent and child. Boston: Beacon Press, 1970, 32 p.

Grades: 2-4. Written as a parent's guide to bring child to understanding of meaning of death. The parents section briefly but directly offers suggestions for methods of approach and elaboration on the ideas presented in the children section. Although the ideas presented in the children's section are sound, the manner of presentation is cold and unappealing. The illustrations add nothing to the text which in itself is unattractive. Not recommended.

Tresselt, Alvin. The Dead Tree. Parent's Magazine, 1971.

Grades: K-3. Story of the slow death of an old oak tree and its contribution to nature - shelter for birds, animals and insects. When the tree is blown over by a strong wind, the trunk decays and adds to the balance of nature. In the final scene young acorns are sprouting to replace the tree. Simple and appropriate study of the life cycle in nature. Good introductory material for approach to study of death as part of life.

Viorst, Judith. The Tenth Good Thing about Barney. Athenium, 1971, 25 p.

Grades: K-2. When Barney the cat dies, the mother suggests that her son think of 10 good things to say about him at his funeral. He can only think of 9 but his search for the 10th helps him to accept death. Honestly handles the emotions stemming from the loss of a pet. Deals frankly with questions regarding the finality of death. Gentle and straightforward.

Warburg, Sandol S. Growing Time. Houghton-Mifflin, 1969, 44 p.

Grades: K-3. When Jamie's dog dies, he is given 2 explanations of death: that death isn't a going away but a going back to the earth and the spirit never dies - it lives in the survivors heart. Jamie considers both as reasonable, but is more comforted by a new puppy.

Zolotoo, Charlotte. My Grandson Lew. New York: Harper & Row, (c1974), 32 p.

Grades: K-2. A boy of six reveals his fond memories of his grandfather to his mother and asks her why he hasn't come back. She explains that he died, but she hadn't told him because he hadn't asked for him. They console each other by sharing their memories of him. Honestly and simply portrays a child's confusion regarding the absence of someone he loves. The mother's response is touchingly sincere rather than saccharine.

Berg, David. Perspectives on Death. Silver Springs, Md: Communitape & Waverly Press, (c1972).

Grade 4-8. Sound Film Strip: "Funeral Customs Around the World" 28 min. Notes similarity of funeral customs, i.e. visual confrontation, religious ceremony, procession, disposal ceremony etc. in the Orient, Africa, Europe, North & South America. Sound Film Strip: "Death Through the Eyes of the Artist" 22 min. Death themes in the art of the ancient pyramids, ancient Greece, the Renaissance and the 19th century. Thesis: Art attempts to make death more concrete and therefore more comprehensible. Audio Tape: "Death themes in Literature" 20 min. Thesis: Death themes in literature attempt to explore mysteries of death and man's emotions --covers from Greek to late 19th century. Audio Tape: "Death Themes in Music" 18 min. Thesis: Composers attempt to capture mood of death and expose their own feeling toward it. A superficial survey which romps through 20 centuries, 3 disciplines and 5 continents in one hour; too broad in scope. But there is some value in superficial audio vidual materials for some students in terms of an initial motivation.

Buck, Pearl. The Big Wave. New York: John Day 1947, 61 pages.

Grade: 4-6. Two Japanese boys, Kino, whose family are farmers, and Jiya, whose family are fishermen are close friends. When a tidal wave destroys Jiya's home and kills his family, Kino's family takes him in and helps him overcome his grief. A wealthy patron attempts to adopt Jiya, but he elects to remain with Kino's family. After he grows up Jiya decides to return to the sea. Beautifully written story not only of grief and readjustment, but of the meaning of friendship and love.

Cleaver, Vera, and Cleaver, Bill. Grover. Lippincott, 1970. 125 pages.

Grades 4-6. Ten year old Grover is confused and upset by his family's unwillingness to discuss his mother's terminal illness. After she commits suicide he attempts to adjust to the changes her death makes in his life. Realistic, sometimes humorous, often sad, but never somber. Good illustration of child's desire to adapt.

Cleaver, Vera, and Cleaver, Bill. Where the Lilies Bloom. Lippincott, 1969. 174 pages.

Grade 4-8. When the Luthers' father dies, the children secretly bury him. Mary, the middle child assumes responsibility for the 10 yr. old brother and the retarded older sister. With extraordinary skill the three manage to survive by scratching a living from the soil. This is an excellent account of the tragedy of children surviving alone. They exhibit extreme courage and good humor but the child of average means may have difficulty identifying with the dire poverty of their existence.

Lee, Virginia. The Magic Moth. New York: Seabury (c 1972). 64 pages.

Grade 2-5. Mark O., a kindergartner and the youngest of 5, watches his sister Maryanne grow weaker from a heart condition. He brings her small gifts to cheer her. One of these is a caterpillar cacoon. On the day of her death, the moth emerges from the cacoon. Excellent story of how more than one member of a family copes with death. Plot and character development are realistic and the funeral process is well explained. Sensitive without being too sweet or too morbid.

Living With Dying. Sunburst. c1973. 2 sound filmstrips and cassette tapes.

Grades 5 and up. Part I. Acceptance. Asserts that death is a part of life by exploring the life cycle, the concept of life expectancy and the search for immortality. Provides an especially clear definition and simple conceptualization of life expectancy. Quotations from William Shakespeare and Francis Bacon are apt and artistically done; the student needs no prior knowledge to appreciate these literary geniuses. However, the language may be over-demanding to younger students. Introduces the moral and ethical issues of who should determine who shall live and who shall die. Covers fear of death, grief of losing loved ones. Forcefully brings out loneliness of older people who are surrounded by machines rather than people. Summarizes major ways in which humans deal with death. Part II. Immortality. More appropriate for grades 5-7 because of the stronger focus on young children. But this part also suggests ways parents should openly and directly explain death to children. Goes through 5 stages through which some people go, according to Kubler-Ross. Dramatization of these five stages is developed forcefully and sadly. Taken together with part I, this is a colorful, evocative teaching kit which movingly leads to its closing lines: "death is a natural part of life for all living things in the world."

Orgel, D. The Mulberry Music. Illustrated by Dale Payson. Harper, 1971. 130 pgs.

Grades 4-6. Eleven year old Libby's grandmother loves and lives life to the fullest. Grandma enjoys swimming at dawn, so she does. Grandma jogs in her mulberry sweatshirt and isn't concerned with other people's perceptions of her. The love which Libby has for her grandmother establishes the difficulty Libby has in coping with Grandma Liza's illness, weakening health and finally, her death. Libby copes by participation in a funeral appropriate for Grandma Liza.

The End of One. 16mm, 7 min. Learning Corporation of America.

Grades 4-8. Views of New York garbage dump and death it causes a seagull. An allegory of modern societal pollution. Effective camera and sound track techniques. Not recommended for unit on death, but useful for unit on pollution.

Smith, Doris. A Taste of Blackberries. Crowell, 1973. 58 pages.

Ages 4-7. Jamie and his best friend have good times together, but Jamie tended to over-dramatize and tell tall stories. Thus, when Jamie was stung by a bee while gathering Japanese beetles, his friend, disgusted with Jamie's overacting, leaves him. Later, he learns that Jamie died of the sting. With the love and understanding of his family, neighbors, and Jamie's mother, the friend accepts Jamie's death and learns to live with his grief. Good study of youth's reaction to death and of how death can be a growing experience.

Whitehead, Ruth. The Mother Tree. Seabury, 1971. 149 pages.

Grades 4-6. Eleven year old Tempe is forced prematurely into the role of housekeeper and babysitter by her mother's death. A superstituous, but understanding grandmother assists her in accepting her acquired role. This book is overly sentimental. Not Recommended.

7 and up

Arundel, Honer. The Blanket Word. Nashville: Thomas Nilson Inc. (c1973), 158p. $4.95. Grades 8-12.

Jan, the liberated college student, is unwillingly drawn back into her family circle when she returns home for her mother's funeral. Surprised to find herself grieving for the mother whom she thought she didn't love, she is still alienated from her sisters and the traditions they espouse. She does, however, establish rapport with her brother who assists her in her struggle to cope with her ambivalent feelings. This forthright and non-sentimental novel is literarily dramatic, though, the style and pace are not maintained through the last third.

Beckman, Gunnerl. Admission to the Feast. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972, 114p. Grades 8 - 12.

A mature 18 year old learns she is dying and goes into isolation in order to gather her thoughts. She does so in the form of a letter to a dear friend in which she details her desire to deny the horrible recognition of what is about to happen to her, her feelings toward her family, her remembrances of good times past, and her relationship with her boyfriend. In closing she is able to accept the reality of her condition. Interesting format, sincerely written. A chronicle of the strength required to face the reality of death.

Gunther, John. Death Be Not Proud. New York: Harper and Row (c1971) 261p. Grades 8 and up.

The father of a child who died of a brain tumor records the child's ordeal and the remarkable courage he displayed in coping with his terminal illness. Emphasis: 15 months time - diagnosis to death. The father is justifiably proud of his exceedingly bright young offspring. But the reader seeking a better understanding of the typical reaction to death may have difficulty identifying with John Gunther as protrayed by his father. More meaningful is the afterward by the boy's mother in which she explores her reactions and encourages those who live to cherish the joy of life.

Harris, Richard. Death of a Revolutionary: Che Quevara's Last Mission. Norton, 1970. 219p. Grades 8 and up.

Account of Che's guerrilla campaign in Bolivia. Explores the motives and purposes of the expedition and its leader in the context of Latin-American History. Well written but documentation may be questionable. Does not deal with subject of this bibliography. Not recommended.

Hunter, Mollie. A Sound of Chariots. New York: Harper, 1972. 242 p. Grades 7 - 9.

Bridie McShane adored her laughing and affectionate father. After his death she retreats into a world filled with horrors. In particular she is appalled by her mother's mourning. Finally she comes to accept her grief and seeks to show her love for her father by developing her own talents. Skillful interpretation of the sights, sounds and feelings surrounding death and the changes death brings to a child's life.

Klein, Stanley. The Final Mystery. New York: Doubleday, 1974, 85p. Grades 6 - 8.

Explores the clinical definition of death, the beliefs of ancient people and religious beliefs regarding death. May answer some children's questions on the cultural aspects of death, but does not address itself to the heart of the matter, i.e. - how death affects the individual. Not recommended.

Langone, John. Death is a Noun/A View of the End of Life. Boston: Little Brown and Co. (c. 1972) 228p. Grades 7 - 9.

Science's emphasis has been on the art of healing, that which may be learned of death in the areas of ethics, morality, medical ethics, religion and law has been overlooked. Discusses some of the difficult questions regarding death but emphasizes the many different points of view and encourages one to make his own judgments. Topics covered are: When does death occur, facing death, euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment, murder, and suicide. Honest attempt to present many views on controversial issues.

Logan, Jane. The Very Nearest Room. New York: Scribner, 1973. 249p. Grades 6-8.

Fifteen year old Lee's mother suffers a series of strokes, is hospitalized, and dies. Lee's father, a physician is frequently away from home. She assumes the role of mother and housekeeper for her younger brother and sister. Well written novel showing the impact of illness and death - the frustration as well as the love possible under these conditions.

Lund, Doris. Eric. Lippincott, 1974. 345p. $7.95. Grades 7 - 9.

Story of a young man's fight for life after he learns at age 17 that he had leukemia. Recounts the loniiness of those who suffer and the courage required to perform in normal situation despite their grief. Compassionate but not overly sentimental account of a fight - not against leukemia - but against the tendency to give up. Honest testimony for enjoyment of life while it lasts.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. Teacup full of Roses. New York: Viking Press (1972) 125p. Grades 7 - 9.

Joseph is the second of 3 sons. He realized that his older brother will probably destroy himself with drugs, despite their mother's willingness to jeopardize the remainder of the family's well being to prevent such destruction. Joseph confronts this circumstance by enlisting in the army so that he can turn his earning over to the youngest brother, Davy, whom Joseph perceives is the most worthwhile of the three brothers. But the eldest brother steals the money, is robbed and killed. In the attempt to recover the money, Davy is killed. A portrayal of a culture in which destruction, violence and overwhelming love compete.

The Old Woman. color. 2 min. with tchr's. guide. ACI Films, 35 W. 45th St., New York 10036. 1974. $50 (rental available). Preview available. Gr 9-college.

Reviewed in Previews, Dec., 1974, p. 12. Reviewer suggests this film was meant for a discussion-starter, but is in fact a spoof requiring serious beforehand work by students.

Peath, Sylvia. The Bell Jar. New York: Harper & Row (c1971).

Grade 8+. Chronicles the six months of madness and treatment of the brilliant, attractive, talented and successful heroine. Highly autobiographical. Moves quickly - first person narration is effective means to lead reader into the deranged mind. Although the topic is depression and attempted suicide, the author's insight into the unhealthy attitude toward death is compelling.

Rosenthal, Ted. How Could I Not be Among You? New York: George Brazieler (c1973) 74 p.

Grade 7+. The author had lived for three years with the knowledge that he was dying of leukemia. He offers a series of brief verses testifying to the beauty of life, his love for what he will leave and his anger with his incurable illness. Hauntingly real insight developed in the face of death.

Segal, Erich. Love Story. New York: Harper & Row, (c1970), 131 p.

Grade 7+. Rich, athletic Harvard boy meets and falls in love with poor, studious Radcliffe girl. They marry despite his parents' objections and have a year of wedded bliss before it is discovered that she is dying of leukemia. Superficial - full of cliches. But this book will probably be read by girls seeking romantic tragedy rather than some insight into nature of abiding love. Not recommended.

Sherburne, Zoa. Jennifer. New York: Wm. Morrow & Co., 1959, 192 p.

Grade 7-9. After Jennifer's twin sister's death at the age of 8, the mother becomes a severe alcoholic. This story chronicles teen-aged Jennifer's struggle to find peace and normalcy in a new community after her mother is cured. Also studies Jennifer's fear that her mother will revert. Deals frankly with a child's resentment and fear of alcoholism. Easily identifiable reactions displayed. Not recommended for unit on death, but excellent for unit on alcoholism.

Should Man Play God? 1973, color, $180 (rental $15). Preview available. Prod. NBC-TV. Distributer: Films Inc., 1144 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.

In fifteen minutes this documentary format film briefly questions the validity of psychosurgery and fetal experimentation. The film shifts from operating room scenes to interviews with medical personnel and patients. The flashback method may lead some viewers to see this use of the flashback technique as a melodramatic rather than scientific tone. Sequentially, Should Man Play God? is a beginning treatment of the complex questions of patients, including fetus's rights.

Stoltz, Mary. By the Highway Home. New York: Harper & Row, 1971, 194 p.

Grade 7-9. Thirteen year old Cathy Reid's brother was killed in Vietnam. Her father loses his job and decides to move the family to Vermont. Deals primarily with Cathy's grief for her brother, her feelings toward her sister and her adjustment to life in Vermont. Not all events credible, but on the whole there is a realistic treatment of grief as experienced by a sensitive and articulate heroine.

Though I Walk Through the Valley. Pyramid. $6, 16mm, 25 minutes.

Grade 7+. A cancer patient told he has 6 months to live has lived 5 years. He discusses his relationship with God, his desire to give up, the anticipated pain of separation from his family. His wife and daughters anticipate their reaction to his death. With them he discusses the way he wants to be remembered. Good photographic technique, but extremely didatic. May well offend rather than inspire. Not recommended

Tolstoy, Leo. Death of Ivan Ilych and other stories. "The Death of Ivan Ilych." New York: Signet Classics (c1960), p. 95-156.

Grade 8+. Recounts the life of a rather mediocre judge whose ends are material and social. The tragedy is not that he died, but that his life had no meaning.

White, Robb. Deathwatch. Doubleday, 1972, 288 p.

Grades 7-9. Ben a 22 year old student accidentally shoots a man. His employer refuses to allow him to report it and tries to bribe Ben in order to cover up the shooting. When this fails, the employer shoots the dead man again and leaves Ben to choose between death by dehydration in the desert or accepting his terms. An exciting suspense novel demonstrating the struggle between two strong personalities. Students who enjoy suspense and thrillers will enjoy this.

Wilmer, David R. and Joan Meyers Wilmer. America: Twentieth Century Fiction: Authority and Self-Discovery. Evanston, IL: McDougal, Littell & Co. (c1973), 230 p.

Grade 8+. Excellent collection of short stories demonstrating development of modern thought. Unfortunately, not suited for purposes of this bibliography. Not recommended.

Windsor, Patricia. The Summer Before. Harper & Row, 1973, 241 p.

Grades 7-9. Teenagers Alexandra and Bradley have throughout their childhood enjoyed an unusual and platonic relationship. Their parents, however, interpret their relationship as sexual and attempt to separate them. In revolt, the two run away and spend an unhappy summer in a commune. In escaping from the commune, Bradley is killed. Alix retreats from reality, but with psychiatric help and the passage of time overcomes her grief and turns once more to face life. Captures the intense emotions of misunderstood adolescents - their needs and their rebellion when stiffled.

Zim, Herbert and Bleeker, Sonia. Life and Death. Morrow, 1970, 63 p.

Grades 7-9. Surveys life functions, differences between death and sleep, medical tests for death, autopsies and decay of the body. General frame of reference is death from old age. Concentrates on the observable facts about death. Excellent section on burial rituals - both ancient and modern. Reassuring and unemotional presentation esp. for children who have never been confronted with facts of death and dying.

Books for Adults

Anthony, Sylvia. The Discovery of Death in Childhood and After. London: Allen Lane, 1971.

Becker, Ernest. The Denial of Death. New York: Macmillan, 1973.

Birk, Alona. "The Bereaved Child," Mental Health, Vol. 24 no. 4, 1966, p. 9-11.

Childers Perry. "The Concept of Death in Early Childhood," Child Development, Oct. 1971, 1299-1301.

Cook, Sarah. Children and Dying: an Exploration and a Selective Bibliography. New York, Health Sciences, 1973.

Crain, Henrietta, "Basic concepts of Death in Children's Literature," Elementary English, Jan. 1972, p. 111-5.

Cutler, Donald R. Updating Life and Death: Essays in Ethics and Medicine. Boston, Beacon (c1968).

Death and Bereavement. Springfield: C. C. Thomas, 1969.

Dumont, Richard. The American View of Death: Acceptance or Denial. Cambridge, General Learning, 1972.

Effects of Early Parent Death. New York: ISS Information Corp. 1975.

Fontenot, Christine, "Values in Literature, Alternative Approaches." English Journal Feb. 1974, p. 62-3

Goldfogel, Linda. "Working with the Parent of a Dying Child." American Journal of Nursing, August, 1970, p. 1675-9.

Gordon, David C. Overcoming the Fear of Death. New York, Macmillan, (c1970).

Jackson, Edgar. Telling a Child about Death. Hawthorn, 1965.

Kubler-Ross, E. On Death and Dying. New York: Macmillan, 1969.

Kubler-Ross, E. Questions and Answers on Death and Dying. Macmillan.

Lifton, Robert. Living and Dying. New York: Praeger, 1974.

Lepp, Ignace. Death , its Mysteries. Toronto: Macmillan, 1969.

Mills, Liston O. Educational Perspectives on Death. Nashville, Abingdon, (c1969).

Mitchell, H.E. Child's Attitudes Toward Death. New York: Schocken, 1966.

Mitford, Jessica. The American Way of Death. New York: Fawcett, 1963.

Moriarity, David. The Loss of Loved Ones. Springfield: Thomas, 1967.

Morison, Robert S. "Dying." Scientific American. Sept, 1973, p. 55-61.

Moss, Judith. "Death in Children's Literature," Elementary English, 49 4 p. 530-2.

Myers, Jeanette. "Literature, Drama and Children's Attitudes and Anxieties Concerning Death." elan. Winter 1973, p. 38-45.

New York Times:

Cole, S.K. "Books for Children based on the Theme of Death." Sept. 26, Section 7 p. 8.

Hoyt, H. "Introducing the child to death." Sept. 26 Section 7, p. 8. 1971.

Kubler-Ross, E. "Dying child copes with death Better than Parents." Jan. 23, 1972, section 2, p. 43.

"Effects on Family of Death of Child-Stress on other Children." Sept. 15, 1973, section 1, page 20.

Ginott, H . "On child assuming Father's Role after Death." Jan. 17, 1974, section 1, p. 34.

"Survey of Attitudes toward Death" July 21, 1974, section 1 p. 6.

"Reviews of adult Books on Death" July 21, 1974, section 7, p. 2.

Osborne, Ernest. When you Lose a Loved One. Public Affairs Comm. Inc. 1st ed. 1958.

Parker, A. and Morgan J. Suicide among Young Adults. Jericho, N.Y.: Exposition Press (c1974).

Pearson, Leonard. Death and Dying. Cleveland: Case Western Reserve, 1969.

Powers, Thomas. "Learning to Die: the Final Lesson that few Doctors know how to teach." Harpers Magazine, June, 1971, p. 72-80.

Scott, Francis. Confrontations of Death: A book of readings and a suggested method of instruction. Corvallis, Oregon: Continuing Education (c1971).

Schneidman, Edwin S. Clues to Suicide. New York: McGraw Hill, (c1957).

Sudnow, David. Passing On. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1967.

Waugh, Evelyn. The loved one. New York: Dell. (c1948).

"When Death Strikes a Child." Nursing Update. Aug. 1971, p. 1-7.

Wolf, Anna W. Wolf, Anna. Helping your Child Understand Death. Child Study 1973.

Zeligs, Rose. Children's Experience with Death. Thomas, 1974.

Death Interpretations. Dell, 1969, $2.45.

A Door Ajar. United Church, 1970, $2.50.

Funeral Customs, Their origins and development. Gale Research, 1969, $12.50.

Home before Dark. Abingdon Press, 1969, $2.75.

The Shape of Death. Abingdon Press, 1969, $1.25.

BOOKS

Agee, James, A Death in the Family. New York: Bantam (c1938).

Arnothy, Christine, I Am Fifteen and I Don't Want to Die. School Book Service, k974, $4.40. (Grade 5-7).

Arundel, Honor, The Blanket Word. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc. (c1973).

Beckman, Gunnel, Admission to the Feast. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, (grade 7-12).

Blinn, William, Brian's Song. Bantam, 1972. (Grade C-up).

Brown, M.W. The Dead Bird. New York: Wm. R. Scott, 1958. (Grade K-2).

Buck, P. Big Wave. John Day, 1948. (Grades 4-6)

Camus, Albert, A Happy Death. Knopf, 1972, 192p. (Grade 8-12).

Cleaver, Vera and Bill, Grover. Lippincott, 1970. 125p. (Grade 4-6).

Cleaver, Vera and Bill, Where the Lilies Bloom. Lippicott (Grades 4-6).

Cooper, M. The Balance of Living. Natural History Press, 1971. (Grade 7-9).

Corley, Elizabeth, Tell Me About Death, Tell Me About Funerals. Grammatical Science Science, 1973. (Grade 3-6).

Coutant, Helen, First Snow. Knopf, 1974. (Grade 1-3).

Cunningham, J. Wings of Morning. Golden Gate, $3.95. (Grade 1-2).

Davies, E. Sir Orbeo. Bradbury Press, 1974. (Elementary).

DePaola, Tomie, Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs. Putnam, 1973. (Grade K-2).

DeRegniers, Beatrice S. Boy, the Hat and Butterfly. Athenum, 1971. (Grade 1-4).

Fassler, Joan, My Grandpa Died Today. Behavioral Publishers, 1971. (Grade K-3).

Fisher, L.E. The Death of Evening Star: the Diary of a Young New England Whaler. Doubleday, 1972. (Grade 5-7).

Grollman, Earl, ed. Explaining Death to Children. Boston, Deacon Press, 1967.

Grollman, Earl, Talking About Death: A Dialog Between Parent and Child. Boston, Beacon Press, $6.00, 1972. (Grade 3-6).

Gunther, John. Death Be Not Proud. New York, Harper and Row, (C 1949).

Harris, Audrey. Why Did He Die. Lerner, $2.95, 1965. (Grade K-6).

Harris, Mark, Bang the Drum Slowly. Dell, 1973. (Grade 9-12).

Harris, Richard. Death of a Revolutionary. Norton, 1970, 219p. (Grade 8---).

Hendin, D.D. Death as a Fact of Life. Norton, 1970, 255p. (Grade 8----).

Horne, Alistair. Death of a Generation, American Heritage Press, 1970, 127p.

Hunter, M. Sound of Chariots. Harper, 1972, 242p. (Grade 7-9).

Johnson, A.E. A Blues I Can Whistle. School Book Service, 1969.

Kantrowitx, Mildred, When Violet Died. Parents, 1974. (Grade K-3).

Langone, J. Death is a Noun. Little, 1972, 63p. (Grade 6-8).

Lee, V. The Magic Moth. Seabury, 1972, 63p. (Grade 3-5).

LeShan, E. What Makes Me Feel This Way. MacMillan, 1972, (Grade 3-6).

Lund, Doris, Eric, Lippincott, 1974.

Logan, Jane, The Very Nearest Room. New York, Scribner, 1973. (Grade 6-8).

Mathis, Sharon Bell, Teacup Full of Roses. New York, Viking (c1972).

Miles, M. Annie and the Old One, Little, 1971. (Grade 2-5).

Morris, Jeannine, Brain Piccolo. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1971.

Orgel, D. The Mulberry Music. Harper, 1971, 130p. (Grade 4-6).

Peck, R. Dreamland Lake. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1973, 147p. (Elementary).

Plath, Sylvia, The Bell Jar. New York, Harper Row (c1970).

Rhodin, E. The Good Greenwood. Westminster Press, 1971, 123p. (Grade 7-9).

Rosenthal, Ted. How Could I Not Be Among You. New York, George Braziller (c1973).

Segal, Erich, Love Story. Harper Row (c1970).

Shecter, Ben. Across the Meadow. Garden City, N.Y. Doubleday, 1972.

Sheppard, J. The Man Who Gave Himself Away, Harlan Quist, $4.95.

Sherburne, Jennifer. Zoa. New York, William Morrow, 1969.

Smith Doris, A Taste of Blackberries. Crowell, 1973, 58p. (Grade 4-6).

Stein, Sara, About Dying: An Open Family Book For Parents and Children. Walker, 1974.

Stoltz, M. By the Highway Home. Harper and Row, 1971, (Grade 5-8).

Tressalt, A. The Dead Tree. Parents Magazine, 1971, Age 7-9.

Tolstoy, L. Death of Ivan Ilyich. New York, New American Library. 1960.

Viorst, Judith, The Tenth Good Thing About Barney. Atheneum, 25p. (Grade K-2).

Warburg, Sandol S. Growing Time. Houghton Mifflin, 1969, $3.95.

White, Robb, Deathwatch. Doubleday, 1972, 220p. (Grade 7-9).

Whitehead, R. Mother Tree. Seabury, 149p., 1971. (Elementary).

Windsor, P. The Summer Before. Harper, 1974, 241p. (Grade 7-9).

Zim, Herbert and Bleeker, Sonia. Life and Death. Morrow, 1970, 63p. (Grade 7-9).

Zolotov, Charlotte, My Gradson Lew. Harper, 1974, 30p. (Grade K-2).

STORIES IN COLLECTIONS

Alegria, R.E. ec. The Three Wishes, "Death's Godchild". p. 52-55. (Grade 4-6).

Anderson, S. Fifty years of the American Short Story, "Death in the Woods". Doubleday, 1970, p. 1-11. (Grade 8--).

Asimov, I. The Early Asimov, "Death Sentence", Doubleday, 1972, p. 405-21, (Grade 8--).

Barrett, N. "Death out of Season" in Hitchcock's Stories to Be Read With The Lights On. Random House, 1973, p. 3-9. (Grade 8--).

Borges, J. Best Doctective Stories of the Year, 1971, "Death and the Compass Dutton, 1971, p. 127-40, (Grade 7---).

Buck, P.S. ed. Fairytales of the Orient "The Death of Koschei the Deathless." p. 35-46, (Grade 4-7).

Courlander, H. Terrapins Pot of Sense, "Death and the Old Man". p. 108-11. (Grade 4-6).

Ellison, R. "The Death of Clifton" in Adoff's Brothers and Sisters. MacMillan 1970, p. 87-95. (Grade 7-9).

Gallico, P. "The Death Trap" in Fenner's Desparate Moments. Morrow, 1971 p. 151-67. (Grade 7-8).

Gold, H. The Best American Short Stories, "A Death on The East Side". Houghton, 1972, p. 48-74. (Grade 8--).

Harris, T.C. The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus, "Death and the Negroman". p. 494-6. (Grade 5-7).

Kennedy, H. "Death in the Kitchen" in Dickinson's The Drugged Cornet and Other Mystery Stories. Dutton, 1973, p. 146-50, (Grade 7---).

Lang, A. ed. The Yellow Fairy Book, "The Death of The Sun-Hero". p. 213-5, (Grade 4-6).

Marsh, N. "Death on the Air" in Hanley's Grande Dames of Detection. Lothrup, 1973, p. 141-76. (Grade 7--).

Meaddough, J. "The Death of Tommy Grimes" in Adoff's Brothers and Sisters. Macmillan, 1970, p. 161-84. (Grade 7-9).

O'Faolain, E. Irish Sagas and Folktales, "Death of Cuchullin", p. 101-09, (Grade 5-7).

Pyle, H. "The Dead Finger" in Kahn's Some Things Dark and Dangerous. Harper, 1970 (Grade 7-9).

Sikes, S. Prize Stories, the O. Henry Awards, The Death of Cousin Stanley," Doubleday, 1973. (Grade 8--).

Stuart, J. Plowshare in Heaven, "Death and Decision", McGraw, 1971, p. 216-27 (Grade 8--).

16mm Films

After the First. 14 min. Franciscan Communications Center, Grade 5--$164.00.

At Your Age. 10 min. Film Fair. Grade 5-6, $135.00.

Big Boys Don't Cry. 9 min. Perspective Films. Grade 5-8, $125.00.

End of One.

The Great Plan. 20 min. Trafco.

My Turtle Died Today. 8 min. Bailey Films. Grade k-1, $100.00.

The Old Woman. 2 min. ACI Films. Grade 4-- $50.00.

Parting, The. 16 min. Wombat Productions. Grade 9-- $210.00.

The Right to Die. 56 min. ABC News. Grade 9-- $600.00.

The Sandpile. 26 min. Carousel Films. $675.00.

Should Man Play God. 15 min. NBC TV. $180.00.

Those Who Mourn. 5 min. Franciscan Communication Center. Grade 9-12. $70.00.

Though I Walk Through the Valley. 30 min. Pyramid. Grade 7-- $600.00.

To Be Aware of Death. 14 min. Billy Budd Films. Circle of Life Series. Grade 9-- $175.00.

The Upturned Face. 10 min. Changing Parade. $150.00.

Sound Filmstrips

Schloat, G. Warren, Living with Dying. 14 min. Sunburst. Grades 6-12. $40.00.

Understanding Changes in the Family. "Playing Dead" 5 min. Guidance Associates.

Videotapes

Roundabout: Living or Dead. 15 min. National ITV Center. Grade k $35.00/

Cassette Tape Recordings

Schneidman, Edwin. Death, the Enemy. Psychology Today.

Record

Peacebird. Deanna Edwards (compiler). 33 1/3 R.P.M. c1974. Franciscan Communications: A Teleketics Release.